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Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Security Council extends UNOSOM II mandate until Friday; to consider report of recent mission to Somalia before deciding on Operation's future.
- + United Nations and NATO announce understanding on use of airpower in Bosnia and Herzegovina; dual-key arrangements remain in effect to ensure joint decisions on targeting and execution of air strikes.
- + Secretary-General begins official visit to Georgia, having concluded visit to Azerbaijan.
- + Mozambican national elections conclude with 90 percent turnout; no major incidents reported during extended voting period.
- + Iraq admits to having explored feasibility of using laser separation to produce enriched uranium between 1981 and 1987, IAEA says.
- + Success of World Summit for Social Development will require global partnership between developed and developing countries, speakers tell Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committees.
- + Special Political and Decolonization Committee approves drafts on Western Sahara, American Samoa and other Non-Self-Governing Territories.
- + Members of Human Rights Committee express concern about extensive use of death penalty and limitations on certain freedoms in Libya.
- + Proposed international criminal court should complement national criminal justice systems, Legal Committee is told.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) for an interim period expiring on Friday, 4 November. It said it would consider the report of its recent seven-member mission to Somalia before completing its review of the Operation's mandate and deciding on its future. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 953 (1994).

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In a report dated 14 October, the Secretary-General commended that UNOSOM II's mandate be extended to 31 March 1995 to give Somali leaders time to consolidate any progress towards reconciliation. He noted that the Council had previously decided that the Operation should end by that date, and said that the withdrawal of all personnel might take as long as 120 days and require extensive support from Member States. He added that the United Nations could continue to play a role in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Somalia if Somali leaders could create favourable security conditions.

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After meetings in New York last week, the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) have reached a series of understandings on the use of airpower in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to a joint statement issued by the two organizations yesterday. Based on those understandings, NATO air strikes will be conducted on a timely basis. While general warning may be given to an offending party, tactical warning of impending air strikes, in principle, will not. Under normal circumstances, several targets -- three or four where possible -- will be authorized for each strike, which will be carried out in close coordination with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

"Dual-key" arrangements remain in effect, ensuring that decisions on targeting and execution will be taken jointly. On the United Nations and NATO military commanders, the statement said. The principles of proportionality in response to a violation will continue to be respected, as will the need to avoid unacceptable casualties.

The Secretaries-General of the United Nations and NATO confirmed once again the excellent cooperation between the two organizations in the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions. They reaffirmed their conviction that the prospect of the effective use of airpower, under the authority of the Security Council and in accordance with the relevant North Atlantic Council decisions, should deter attacks against UNPROFOR and violations of those resolutions.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today arrived in Georgia, having concluded an official visit to Azerbaijan. On arrival in Tbilisi, he was welcomed by President Eduard Shevardnadze, Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia, Foreign Minister Alexander Chikvaide, and his Special Representative for Georgia, Edouard Brunner. He was expected to have a tête-à-tête with the President this afternoon.

Yesterday in Azerbaijan, he had a two-hour meeting with President Heidar Aliyev, who stated that his country was cooperating closely with the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to achieve a peaceful settlement of the conflict with Armenia. The Secretary-General expressed support for peace-making efforts by the CSCE Minsk Group and mediation efforts by the Russian Federation. He said that the

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United Nations was ready to help coordinate those initiatives, and that it would expand its humanitarian presence in Azerbaijan through its agencies and programmes.

Earlier yesterday, Mr. Boutros-Ghali had a meeting with the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, Hassan Hassanov. They discussed the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and the importance of implementing Security Council resolutions 822 and 853 (1993), relating to the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and to the immediate withdrawal of occupying troops from Azeri territory.

The Secretary-General also visited a refugee centre, where representatives briefed him regarding the plight of one million refugees and displaced persons living in Azerbaijan. He said that he would update the Security Council on the situation and that the Organization would continue to strive for a peaceful solution to the conflict. He later visited the United Nations office in Baku and addressed staff there.

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Some 90 percent of the registered electorate had voted in Mozambique's national elections when the polls closed on Saturday, according to a United Nations spokesman. He said there had been no major incidents during the elections. The voting period had been extended from two to three days to allow for a high turnout and the resolution of difficulties after the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) reversed a decision to withdraw from the elections.

In a Presidential statement on 21 October, the Security Council reiterated its intention to endorse the results of the elections should the United Nations declare them free and fair, and reminded the parties of their obligation to fully abide by the results. It said the parties should be guided by the spirit of reconciliation and the principles of democracy after the elections, thus enabling the international community to continue to support Mozambique.

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Iraq has admitted that, contrary to previous statements, it assigned resources to exploring the feasibility of using laser isotope separation to produce enriched uranium between 1981 and 1987, according to a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). That admission followed an IAEA investigation at the Tuwaitha site, and visits to Tarmiya, Baghdad Technical University and the University of Baghdad. The report, covering the Agency's twenty-sixth on-site inspection in Iraq, was transmitted to the Security Council by the Secretary-General in a note dated 22 October.

The report also deals with implementation of the ongoing monitoring and verification plan, particularly regarding the use of machine tools,

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non-nuclear materials and other equipment, and inspections at sites associated with Iraq's former nuclear weapons programme. A total of 16 facilities, installations and sites were visited during the IAEA's latest inspection.

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A global partnership between developed and developing countries and specific commitments on the part of both will be essential to the success of the World Summit for Social Development, speakers told the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural). The World Summit will take place in Denmark next March.

The Summit should make a strong plea for global partnership, Canada said, calling attention to the need to pool resources. India noted that there continued to be an emphasis on reallocating resources rather than providing new ones, and called for specific action in that regard. Tunisia called for particular attention to the problems afflicting Africa.

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The Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) has approved a total of twelve drafts on Western Sahara, American Samoa and other Non-Self-Governing Territories on its agenda. Also on Friday, the Committee addressed such questions as foreign economic and military activities in those Territories, the role of United Nations specialized agencies, and information provided by administering Powers.

By the terms of a draft resolution on Western Sahara, the General Assembly would restate its support for further efforts of the United Nations in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), to organize a referendum on self-determination, in conformity with the settlement plan approved by the Security Council. The Assembly would also reaffirm the agreed goal of holding such a free, fair and impartial referendum without any military or administrative constraints, and would express the hope that direct talks between the two parties would soon resume. That draft was approved without a vote.

The Committee approved another draft resolution by which the Assembly would condemn the activities of foreign economic, financial and other interests that continued to exploit the human and natural resources of the indigenous peoples of colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories. It would urge that the administering Powers concerned guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples of those Territories to their natural resources. That draft was approved by 94 votes in favour to 38 against, with 5 abstentions (Argentina, Belarus, Kyrgyz Republic, Russian Federation, Senegal).

Acting with a vote, the Assembly approved a draft resolution addressing the specific conditions in the following small Territories: American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin

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Islands. Also without a vote, the Committee approved texts on the situations in New Caledonia, Gibraltar, Pitcairn and Tokelau.

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The extensive use of the death penalty in Libya and limitations on the exercise of a number of freedoms were cited as matters of concern by members of the Human Rights Committee in Geneva on Friday. The Committee thus concluded its examination of Libya's second periodic report on implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Committee heard Said Hafyana, a member of Libya's General People's Committee of Justice and General Security, respond to questions on such matters as freedom of religion, the treatment of detainees and the right to life. Asked whether heretics were punished with death in Libya, he said that if "heretic" meant a person who practised a religion other than Islam, that was not true. The State punished actions which prevented freedom of belief and religion. According to Islamic law, heretics were Muslims who converted to another religion; they were punished with death. However, no one had ever been executed for heresy in Libya because nobody had converted from Islam.

The Libyan representative indicated that restrictions on the exercise of the freedoms of the press and expression were regulated by law and were meant to safeguard public order and social morality. With regard to the legal protection of the family, under the draft constitution to be submitted to the legislature, husbands no longer had absolute rights of divorce or polygamy.

The draft constitution, which would be applicable once adopted by the General People's Congress, would reinforce the freedoms and safeguards enjoyed by Libyans, Mr. Hafyana went on to say. It did not proclaim specific rights because that was already done in the Great Green Document.

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An international criminal court must complement national criminal justice systems if it is to be universally accepted, the representative of Chile told the Sixth Committee (Legal) on Friday. He said States should be allowed to investigate crimes listed in the draft statute, especially as national courts were increasingly dealing with some crimes over which the court would have jurisdiction. He made those comments as the Committee continued its consideration of the report of the International Law Commission.

Ghana warned that some crimes listed in the draft statute could have political underpinnings, thereby affecting the will of States and compromising their commitment to an international criminal court. India said the perpetrators of international crimes should not be allowed to seek immunity behind the claim that their actions were politically motivated.

Several speakers addressed the issue of the Security Council's power under the draft statute to refer cases to the Court. Sri Lanka said there was a risk that such power could introduce inequalities for States who were not members of the Council, as well as between permanent and non-permanent members.

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